

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:NEA/EABINGTON:HE

APPROVED BY:NEA/EABINGTON

S/S:JLHOGANSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 218698

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HAROLD SAUNDERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 9074 ACTION SECSTATE 12 SEP 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 9074

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG IS

SUBJECT: GAMASY ON EGYPTIAN ARMY REACTION TO
AGREEMENT AND GENEVA TALKS

1. DURING HOUR-LONG MEETING WITH GAMASY THIS EVENING,
I ASKED FOR HIS ESTIMATE OF EGYPTIAN REACTION TO RECENT
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. HE SAID HE COULD SPEAK ONLY FOR
THE ARMY. IMMEDIATELY AFTER INITIALING, HE HAD UNDERTAKEN
A TRIP TO ALL MAJOR ARMY COMMANDS AND INSTALLATIONS
TO BRIEF THE OFFICERS ON THE AGREEMENT AND RELATED DOCUMENTS.
HE HAD DONE SO CANDIDLY AND WITHOUT CONCEALING ANYTHING.
IN HIS JUDGMENT, THE ARMY
WELCOMES THE NEW AGREEMENT AND SUPPORTS IT. IN

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THE CIVILIAN COMMUNITY, TOO, IT HIS IMPRESSION THAT

THE AGREEMENT IS WELCOMED, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT HE WAS SURE I KNEW THERE WERE SOME (UNSPECIFIED) SHARP CRITICS OF IT IN THE COUNTRY.

2. GAMASY THEN SAID HE WISHED TO TALK TO ME ABOUT THE CURRENT GENEVA TALKS. HE IS RECEIVING DAILY REPORTS FROM MAGHDOUB, MAINLY BY PHONE. HE AND EGYPTIAN CHIEF OF OPERATIONS, GENERAL GRIDLY, ARE CLOSELY MONITORING GENEVA TALKS. THE ISRAELIS, GAMASY ASSERTED, ARE BEING CHARACTERISTICALLY DIFFICULT. ALL KINDS OF POINTS HAVE COME UP WHICH INDICATE THAT, UNLIKE THE FIRST DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WHICH INVOLVED PHASED IMPLEMENTATION, THEY WANT TO STAY THE FULL FIVE MONTHS. THEY CONTEND THEY NEED THIS TIME TO DISMANTLE PRESENT FORTIFICATIONS AND BUILD NEW ONES.

3. GAMSAY SAID HE WANTED US TO BE AWARE OF EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON SEVERAL POTENTIAL STICKY POINTS:

A. MOST IMPORTANT IS THE MATTER OF PHASING AND TIMING OF ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN REDEPLOYMENT IN THE NORTHERN SECTIONS. EGYPTIANS HAVE PRESENTED SEVERAL ALTERNATIVES. WHILE HE ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT THAT REDEPLOYMENT SHOULD NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL THE END OF THE FIVE-MONTH PERIOD, GAMASY INDICATED EGYPT INSISTS ON THE PRINCIPLE THAT THERE SHOULD BE PHASED, SUCCESSIVE MOVEMENTS BY ALL PARTIES OR AT LEAST OF EGYPTIAN AND UNEF FORCES. IF THE ISRAELIS REMAIN ADAMANT IN OPPOSING THIS, THE AGREEMENT WILL RUN INTO TOUGH SLEDDING WITHIN EGYPT. IT WILL APPEAR AS IF NOTHING IS REALLY HAPPENING. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE SUGGESTED THE EGYPTIANS MIGHT TAKE OVER A PART OF THE PRESENT UNEF ZONE WITH UNEF WITHDRAWING A SHORT DISTANCE AS ONE SUCH PHASE. THIS OUGHT TO BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER SUCCESSIVE PHASES AGREED UPON BY THE PARTIES.

B. IN THE CASE OF THE OILFIELDS, GOE HAS SENT THE EGYPTIAN MANAGER OF ENI TO TALK ABOUT TAKE-OVER OF BELAYIM AREA OF ABU RUDAYS. ENI MANAGER HAD ON HIS OWN COME UP WITH IDEA OF A TRIPARTITE EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI/ITALIAN GROUP TO WORK OUT TAKE-OVER DETAILS. INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO RPT NO SUCH SEPARATE TRIPARTITE GROUP. INSTEAD, EGYPTIAN AND ITALIAN ENI REPS SHOULD COME UNDER EGYPTIAN DELEGATION.

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SIMILARLY, ISRAELI TECHNICIANS SHOULD COME UNDER ISRAELI DELEGATION.

C. ALL KINDS OF PROBLEMS ARE ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH THE JOINTLY USED ROAD. ONE OF THE MOST SERIOUS IS THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE INSISTING THAT THEY MAINTAIN THE JOINTLY USED ROAD SECTION. GOE WILL NOT RPT NOT AGREE TO THIS. IT IS AN EGYPTIAN, GAMASY INSISTED, UNDER UN SUPERVISION WITH

THE ISRAELIS HAVING JOINT USE RIGHTS.

WITHOUT GETTING INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE POINT, TOOK
THE OCCASION TO REMIND GAMASY THAT ISRAEL WOULD HAVE UNRESTRICTED
USE OF THE COMMON ROAD SECTIONS DURING THE PERIODS DESIGNATED
FOR ISRAEL USE. GAMASY DID NOT DEMURE.

D. EGYPTIANS HAVE SUGGESTED 3,000 MAN POLICE FORCE IN THE
CORRIDOR AND ABU RODAYS OILFIELD REGIONS. ISRAELIS COUNTERED
WITH 300 POLICE ARMED SOLELY WITH PISTOLS. THE ISRAELI
PROPOSAL, GAMASY SAID, IS RIDICULOUS. OPERATING ON A DAILY BASIS
OF THREE SHIFTS, THIS WOULD MEAN ONLY 100 POLICE TO COVER THE
ENTIRE 180 KILOMETER LONG STRETCH AND THE SIX MAIN
LOCATIONS IN THAT STRETCH. IF THOSE SICK AND ON LEAVE ARE DEDUCTED,
THE NUMBER WOULD BE EVEN LESS. THIS IS NOT ENOUGH TO CONTROL
SMUGGLING. MAGHDOUB HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A COUNTER-
PROPOSAL OF 1,500 POLICE. THIS IS THE MINIMUM EGYPT CAN ACCEPT.

4. I SAID I THOUGHT THESE ISSUES COULD BE BEST HANDLED IN THE
WORKING GROUP. GAMASY AGREED, BUT WANTED TO BRING THEM TO
OUR ATTENTION NOW. ANYTHING WE CAN DO TO IMPRESS UPON ISRAELIS
THE NEED TO BE MORE REASONABLE WOULD BE APPRECIATED. WITHOUT THIS
THERE IS DANGER THAT A DEADLOCK COULD DEVELOP IN SO MANY
POINTS THAT THE AGREEMENT COULD ABORT.

5. DEPT MAY WISH PASS THIS MESSAGE TO GENEVA FOR SAUNDERS.
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UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-C, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, NEGOTIATIONS, PEACE PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE218698
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: NEA/EABINGTON:HE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N750004-0321
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750953/aaaabulf.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GAMASY ON EGYPTIAN ARMY REACTION TO AGREEMENT AND GENEVA TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, (GAMASY)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006